

## PARENTS

Your local school district welcomes you and your student. If you encounter difficulties, solutions can often be found.

When asking the school district to waive or ignore requirements, please understand many are set by state law. They cannot violate state law.

Work with local school district officials to develop alternative solutions to your problems.



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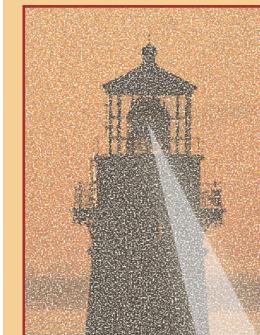
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# MISSOURI



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# • TIPS FOR • SERVICEMEMBER • PARENTS • OF SCHOOL AGE • CHILDREN • IN MISSOURI



## STATE CONSTITUTION TEST

States often have a state-specific history or citizenship class requirement. Missouri has a State Constitution test that is often part of a required Government or Civics class. School districts may not be allowed to accept the class from another state in lieu of their requirement. If your student is a freshman or sophomore and you think you will be transferred prior to their senior year, work with the school to delay scheduling the history or citizenship class until your student's junior or senior year.

## KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE AGE REQUIREMENTS

Some states allow children to begin school at a younger age than Missouri does. Most Missouri school districts will waive that age requirement if your child has been enrolled in a state-recognized kindergarten program at your previous assignment. They will generally consider your request if your child has been enrolled in a state-recognized pre-kindergarten program at your last assignment, but that must be considered on a case by case basis.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Missouri school districts will do all they can to enroll your student in after school programs and activities. Such programs often face space limitations, so it is important that you contact the school district as early as possible and enroll your student to maximize their chances of participating.

## TRANSFER STUDENT SPORTS PARTICIPATION

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) requires transfer students to provide proof of athletic eligibility and participation in the form of a document completed by their previous school prior to acceptance in a Missouri high school athletics program.

Most Missouri schools will ask the student athlete to participate in a tryout session to determine athletic capability and in the same number of practice sessions that they require of their current students before your student athlete will be allowed to compete.

Where the Missouri school does not offer the sport your student seeks, it is highly unlikely that permission will be granted to play in an adjoining school district that does offer that sport. Past abuse of such permission has resulted in a state-wide avoidance of such policies.

## TRANSFER OF RECORDS

Most Missouri school districts will accept hand-carried records for initial placement of your student. Work with the district and your prior school district to ensure official records are forwarded in a timely manner.



# COMMONLY FACED CHALLENGES

## GIFTED PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

A child enrolled in a gifted program at their previous school may not qualify for a gifted program in Missouri school districts. School districts will do all they can to work with you and your student, but there are limits to what they can waive.

It will help if you bring evidence of the requirements for admission and enrollment in past gifted programs with you when you move to Missouri.

It is also likely that your student will be asked to take a test to determine where they can best fit into your new school's gifted program. Somewhat like athletic participation, evidence of capability to participate is required.

## HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR CLASSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Some school districts allow students to take Algebra I in Middle School. Missouri schools will accept the course in fulfillment of the High School mathematics requirement, but cannot accept it as part of the total credits required for graduation. The good news here is your student will not have to retake Algebra I. They will however not be able to use it as part of the total credits needed for graduation.